

# Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

March 2015

## President's Message

By Bob Dreyer



The **Capitol Clarion** is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

**Marti Dennis, Managing Editor**

Bill Geach, Editor Eternal

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1<sup>st</sup> of the month.**

Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at: **mdennis1@att.net**

March came in like a lamb, and we can hope it goes out like a lion. I love these spring-like days but know that we need more rain and snow. As I write this it's hard to believe that we have changed back to daylight savings time already.

February ended with the sad passing of Dick Latimer. Thanks to all of you for keeping Suzanne and the family in your thoughts. Over a dozen members of the association attended the Visitation and / or Funeral Mass.

The March meeting of the Board of Directors was lively, and I feel a lot was accomplished. There were a couple of items (actually three topics) discussed that I need to emphasize in this forum:

(1) We need someone to step up and become our website administrator. I'm sure there is someone reading this who has a feeling for website maintenance. The site is up and running, and we need someone to keep it current. Training will be available for whoever would like to take on the task. Keep in mind that the time put in on the website does count toward the yearly hours needed to be considered an active member.

(2) There is an opening on the CSCMVA Appropriations Committee. Our dedicated Treasurer needs an assistant. Bob Dennis will be happy to mentor someone in the ins and outs of the work done by the Appropriations Committee (currently it's a committee of one). This is another opportunity to earn hours toward yearly active status in the Association.

(3) Work is being done on the By-laws to restructure the membership classification of "Life Member." Until new By-laws are approved, there will be no applications for "Life Member" accepted by the Board of Directors.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in Museum Day and Camellia Day especially Rachel Martinez and Connie Clark who provided the leadership necessary to assure a successful event.

We are still looking for both actors and support personnel for the Earthquake Day living history event on April 18. I'm disappointed that more members have not elected to come forward and participate in this event. Members of the Earthquake Day event

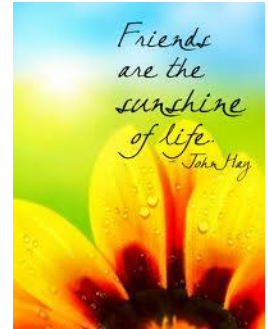
committee are having to telephone the membership and ask people to please participate. Don't wait for a call; contact **Dave Keck** if you have not already done so and let him know you want our living history event to be a success! Dave can be contacted at [2kecks@att.net](mailto:2kecks@att.net).

~ **Bob**

## Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the **Clarion**, cards have been sent to the following individuals:

- **Suzanne Latimer** and family upon the death of her dear husband and our fellow CSCMVA member Richard Latimer
- **Erin Renfree** upon the death of her father
- **Pam Werner** for her continued recovery from recent back surgery



Please remember that If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of our membership. Scotty can be contacted at [hashhogg901@yahoo.com](mailto:hashhogg901@yahoo.com) or by phone at 707- 425-1909.

## Earthquake Day: Saturday April 18



San Francisco April 1906

Don't neglect an opportunity to be part of our next living history event: Earthquake Day. **David Keck** and **Scotty Hodges** are working diligently to assemble a cast for our historical vignettes and the support services to ensure a successful re-creation of history. Many of our Capitol visitors have no appreciation for the events that surrounded that greatest of U.S. natural disasters. We have a unique opportunity for CSCMVA members to be part of telling that story. Join the cast and be part of the comraderie that is associated with being a participant! Contact David Keck or Scotty Hodges to volunteer.

## Parking Pass Reminder:

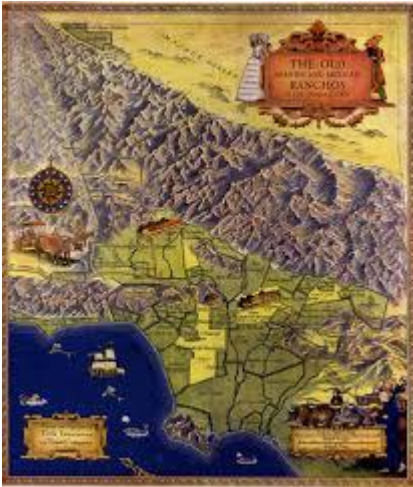
It is that time again! You need to renew your parking pass at City Hall prior to **March 31** in order to continue to enjoy the reduced cost benefit of parking in the garage at 10<sup>th</sup> and L Streets. A letter, confirming you as an ongoing participant as a CSCMVA volunteer, is on the Volunteer Desk in the Parks office. Be sure to pick that up before heading to City Hall.

## Did You Know.....

By Clem Dougherty

...that all but a few of the so-called Spanish grants of California land were not Spanish at all? Yes it's true. The vast majority of the land grants were really Mexican land grants granted by the Mexican governors after 1821. You may recall that the Spanish/Mexican period was divided into two parts:

the Spanish part (1769-1821) and the Mexican Part (1821-1846). The Spanish governors in California could not grant land; only the Viceroy in Mexico City could issue grant deeds and prior to 1821 the Viceroy had granted only 20 grants of land to individuals, mostly, if not all, to retiring Spanish soldiers. But as the result of Mexico gaining its independence in 1821 and the 1834 secularization order of the missions, the Mexican governors of California between 1821-1846 had the power to issue land grants and did indeed issue at least 500 grants of former mission lands to former soldiers who had not been paid, to the administrators of the missions, and to other friends of the governors. Some historians put the Mexican land grants at higher numbers ~700 land grants and even 800 land grants. By virtue of these land grants and other incidental orders affecting crops and herds, the Mexican governors transferred the entire mission lands **and** the Indians remaining thereon to the Californios who were the descendants of the Spanish soldiers and settlers.



Some of these land grants were given to non-Spaniards who agreed to become Mexican citizens and Catholic converts. In present day Sacramento County there were 7 land grants, among which were New Helvetia granted to Captain John Sutter (the present day downtown Sacramento and a portion along the Sacramento River from Sacramento to present day Marysville), the Rancho San Juan (present day Orangevale, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, and part of Carmichael), the Rancho Del Paso (present day Antelope, Natomas, Rio Linda, Del Paso Heights, Cal-Expo, and the other part of Carmichael), the Rancho Rio de los Americanos (present day Folsom, Gold River, and Rancho Cordova), and Rancho Zanzon de los Moquelumnes (present day Elk Grove).

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hildago signed in February, 1848, by Mexico and the United States to end the Mexican War provided that Mexicans “shall be maintained and respected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property.”<sup>11</sup> In spite of the foregoing language of the Treaty, the problem arose as to just what was the property to be protected. At the heart of the problem was that American laws required property descriptions to be exact while the Mexican land system was more lax using such phrases as “mas o menos” (more or less) after measures of distances which created uncertainty in the land grants. In addition, Mexican surveys often used natural elements such as “rocks” or “rivers” and even “trees” as boundary markers. The Mexican system required that grants, in addition to being signed by the governor, be approved by the territorial assembly and be occupied by the grantee. Many of the Mexican land grants failed to meet their own requirements.

In 1851 Congress passed the Land Act setting up a three member commission to decide the validity of all claims to land under Mexican titles. All holders of land under Mexican titles were required to file claims and had the burden of proving up their title. They could appeal the decisions of the land commission to the federal district court and a further appeal to the United States Supreme Court. The commission held its hearings in San Francisco between 1852 and 1856. Of the approximately 800 cases submitted to it, all but a few were appealed to the District Court and 99 were appealed to the Supreme Court. Ultimately 604 claims (9 million acres) were confirmed while 209 claims (4 million acres) were rejected. The average length of time required to have a claim determined (averaging the commission time and the court time) was 17 years. While the Californians waited to have their claims decided, many borrowed money and gave their property as security. Unable to pay on the loans, many Californians lost their properties through foreclosures. By the time their claims were ultimately decided, many other claimants went bankrupt with many grants passing into the hand of attorneys to pay legal fees.

Although the entire Spanish/Mexican/Mission period came to a sorry end, it continues to stand as the historical basis for the Hispanic element in our present California identity. That element is found in our people ~39% Latino, our history (1769-1846), our language in that Spanish is the unofficial



second language, our place names (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, etc.), our architecture (the mission style) and our law in that community property law comes from Spain.

(Sources: Rawls, James J. and Bean, Walton, *California, An Interpretive History*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., p p.56,62-67; Lightfoot, Kent, *Indians, Missionaries, And Merchants*, p.249, n.19. ns. 20-21. Jackson, Robert H. and Castillo, Edward. *Indians, Franciscans, and Spanish Colonization*, p. 88,90-97,100.; Sandos, James A., *Converting California, Indians And Franciscans In The Missions*, pp.108-110; Monroy, Douglas, *Thrown Among Strangers*, pp.117-125.)

## Reflections on Camellia Day:

On Wednesday February 25 a number of CSCMVA volunteers gathered under the staircase adjacent to the West entrance to the Capitol to make corsages and boutonnieres using camellias from the Capitol grounds and bows previously made by members. A combined total of more than 400 corsages and boutonnieres were made and shared with Capitol visitors and staff. (The lighting adjacent to the entrance was minimal, so the photographs below are not up to par, but we are including them so that members can get a glimpse of the event.)



Volunteers Above (L to R): Marianne Breuning, Connie Clark, Marti Dennis, Jan Forbes, Karen. Rea, Julie Mallet, Scotty Hodges, Ann Rost, Barb Souza, Mary Spitzer, Pat Rodoni, and Joan Lasak.



Carolyn Martin



Norma Leopold

## Rachel's Reminders:



The **North Door Info Desk** is open! We've had a positive response from visitors, volunteers working the booth and staffers in the building, but we need more volunteers! The position is especially helpful during the weekends (as it is the only entrance open), as well as during our busy school season. A "cheat-sheet" of helpful tips and numbers will be placed there shortly for reference while staffing the booth. Feel free to schedule yourselves for any openings in this new position on **VicNet**.

Speaking of VicNet... **please update your emergency contact information in VicNet**. This can be found by clicking on the "My Profile" tab and scrolling down to the "Emergency Contact" portion. Click the green "Save" button when completed. If you have not done so already, **please also return the previously emailed Emergency Contact form to me** in email form, or leave a printed copy at my desk, as soon as possible. Blank forms are available at the Volunteer Desk at the Tour Office.

With more and more visitors coming each day, please pay attention to the number of people in the historical rooms. **One of the WI Desk duties is to act as a back-up**; if more than 4 visitors are to be in a room, please ask a back-up to join you before entering the museum room. Another **one of the WI Desk duties is to respond to any alarms that sound**. Please keep in mind staff and volunteers stationed in Exhibit / Historical rooms. These volunteers are discouraged from leaving the rooms if possible, as they have artifacts to watch as well.

The **Lost and Found**, previously located at the CHP office, has now been moved to **Room 3030**.

## Sewing Workshop:

Due to some maintenance activities within the Stanford Gallery, the Sewing Workshop was rescheduled for the dates March 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 5<sup>th</sup>. Approximately six of our members gathered on one or more of the four days and worked on their individual costumes. Thanks to **Connie Clark** and **Ann Rost**, we had all the tools (sewing machines, irons, ironing boards etc.) necessary to accomplish some serious projects. I think we all understand why old fashioned quilting bees were such a success. Being gathered together for suggestions, advice and technical support were so important to the enjoyment and accomplishments of the week!



Connie Clark



Scotty Hodges and Joan Lasak



Mary Spitzer

## Christmas Committee:



Thanks to the organization and energy of **Jan Forbes** and **Marylin Thompson**, a meeting was held on March 8<sup>th</sup> at Jan's home in West Roseville for the discussion of additional enhancements that the Association can make to the Capitol museum room Christmas decorations. **Koren Benoit** was present to help guide the discussion, to suggest additional decorations, and to ensure all choices were period

appropriate. This was just the first of several meetings over the next 6 months to design and make decorations for the trees and for the mantels in the historic rooms. Thanks to the research efforts of Jan and Marylin, the group tentatively decided on several new ornament projects. The plan is to assemble a working group and the necessary project materials in May. A second meeting will be a craft workshop in June. **All interested members are encouraged to participate!** Those present on March 8 were: (*Back Row*) Ann Just, Karen Rea, Koren Benoit, Kay Christensen, Norma Leopold, Jan Forbes and Marylin Thompson. (*Front Row*) Sandy Metzger, Mary Geach and Ann Fox-Morgan.

## Volunteer Spotlight:

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

This article is a reprise of an earlier Spotlight article in our series. It first appeared in a 2009 issue of the **Clarion**.

This lady has an eclectic resume that is inspiring to read. For some thirty years, she worked for the **California Office of State Publishing** on a full time basis. Then in 2005, when she finally retired, she spent the first year doing what she calls "playtime." Then she says that when she saw an ad for the CSCMVA program, she knew it was time to step up and do something that was more constructive with her time. And what could be better than volunteering, learning history, meeting people from around the world and all within an Association infused with fun and interesting co-workers? So **Connie Clark** joined the class of 2006.

Connie is perfectly at home in this historic place. In school, history was not her favorite subject, but now she finds it interesting and important. She demonstrates her new appreciation by participating in Renaissance Fairs as both English and Scottish characters, and eventually joined the Bedouin Caravan bringing silks and spices to the Queen. Although Connie finds the history fascinating, she says she probably uses the Renaissance Fairs and the Capitol Living History events as an excuse for a grown-up "dress up!" She is also a member of the Old City Cemetery Actors Annex (an unofficial title) where she assists in the Living History fundraisers. In a recent Halloween production, she had the opportunity to play Aimee Crocker and says it was a "hoot" to portray her as she was, to quote Connie, "quite a broad!"



**Connie Clark**



Connie is rather modest when it comes to describing her skills and creativity. She loves researching and creating costumes, and she is a very talented seamstress – giving untold hours to assisting at the Costume and Hat Making Workshops. In addition to making her own beautiful costumes, she is always ready to assist volunteers with their questions about style, pattern modifications and alterations. She is an invaluable asset to our costuming efforts.

During her time as a docent at the Capitol, you name it and she has done it at least once, twice, or more times. She has participated in most of the Living History events including Governors' Day, Museum Day, Admission Day, Hat and Costume Workshops, Camellia Day and has generously shared her time and talents as a mentor, director and co-chair of living history events.

Connie says she really enjoys being a docent at the Capitol. And in answer to her favorite question of tourists "where are you from?" she says she learned that a five year old responder was from her hometown in Idaho! She continues to learn something new about the Capitol or a new method of preservation as she continues her docent activity. Her rewards come from interacting with the children, especially the 12 -14 year olds.

Connie is not one to linger. She is a lady of boundless energy, and since this article ran in 2009, she has taken a number of exciting trips including deep sea fishing and a safari to Africa. She has enthusiastically participated in all of our Living History events; acted in, directed and / or served as Chair or Co-Chair for Camellia Day, Admission Day, Governors' Day and 1906 Earthquake Day. She has lent her sewing and millinery talents in a number of Costume and Hat Workshops, acted as Director for Suffragette Day, and is now serving a second term on the Board. Connie has given CSCMVA more than 1,500 hours. Meanwhile – she has returned to work part time with the California Office of State Publishing!

## Minutes of the CSCMVA Board March 4, 2015

By Marylin Thompson, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. in room 126 of the Capitol by **President Bob Dreyer**.

**Minutes** were approved as distributed.

**Bookstore Report:** **Mary Geach** reported that net income in Feb was \$2,005.27. Income in Feb 2014 was \$1,700. Book sales are doing very well, especially children's books. Mary displayed a children's book written by a retired CHP officer which she likes and will order in limited quantity.

**Membership:** **Mary** reported \$2,920 received to date in dues. Approximately 15 people have failed to renew. Membership cards are being prepared and will be mailed to members.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Bob Dennis** reported that income is over projections, and DDSO has caught up with paying our bookstore income. Report accepted.

Update on PPIE posters: we still do not have agreement with State Library on split of income but will proceed to put 10 posters of each scene in the Bookstore before the exhibit is closed in May. They will sell for \$7.50 each and will be labeled as "limited edition."

## Board of Directors 2015



**Front Row:** Marylin Thompson, PJ Jones, Bob Dreyer, Bob Dennis  
**Back Row :** Connie Clark, Alex King, Julie Mallett, Chris Tyler, David Keck

**State Parks Report:** Rachel Martinez reported that the Treasurer's Office repainting is finished and looks great. Museum room informational signs are being revised and will include a QR code and will be ADA compliant. Signage for the Governor's Office will include a picture of Gov. Pardee seated at his desk. Renato has made several signs for the north entrance information desk, and Matt has submitted a proposal to Joint Rules for a Bookstore sign in the lower rotunda. Next exhibit will be on CA's role in World War II and will open around Memorial Day. Volunteers are greatly needed on all Sundays, but especially on March 8 as there are 6 school tours scheduled. There is only one regularly scheduled volunteer on Sundays. Rachel will be gone the last week in March for volunteer supervisor training in Monterey. Rachel reported the passing of Richard Latimer who, with his wife Suzanne, have been active CSCMVA members.

### On-going Business:

- **Museum Day:** Official attendance figures were low but count might have been inaccurate. It *seemed* very well-attended. Guides need a refresher on the policies regarding number of guests allowed in a room at one time.
- **Camellia Day:** More than 400 corsages and boutonnieres were distributed.
- **Earthquake Day:** April 18<sup>th</sup> – quite a few more participants are needed, especially male actors. A committee meeting will be held after the board meeting to decide how to proceed.
- **Suffrage Day:** Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> – chairmen still needed.
- **Volunteer Training Class:** Scheduled for July/August – first committee meeting will be held late March. Emphasis this year will be on training new volunteers to be able to do *everything*, especially roving. They will also be assigned to a committee and will be expected to be an active participant in the association. Their mentors will be expected to follow up on them for longer, and all Board members are expected to help with training.
- **Christmas Decorations:** Marylin and Jan spent several hours learning how to make Victorian ornaments from a vendor who makes and sells them. She was very helpful and gracious. An organizational meeting will be held at Jan's home on March 8, 2-4 p.m. Everyone who would like to help is welcome. RSVP to Jan or Marylin.
- **Summer Social:** suggestion was to have group attend a River Cats game. There might be two socials – a second one for non-baseball fans.
- **Standing Rules:** Request from a member for lifetime membership is moot and will be denied. The volunteer did not fulfill requirements in the old Standing Rules. The issue still needs to be addressed. PJ Jones will form a committee to consider and re-write this section of the By-laws with the intent of reserving this honor for those who have made a significant contribution to CSCMVA. It is not meant as a means for those who wish to avoid paying annual dues.

### Announcements:

- We need a **website administrator** to replace Randall Williams. Alex will see if Randall could be persuaded into doing it on a part time basis.
- Still need a **back-up "treasurer-in-training"** for Bob Dennis.
- Need **signage at the north entrance** directing people to various places in the west wing when the north information desk is not staffed, i.e.: Tour Office, Information Desk, Bookstore.
- Marylin commented that perhaps it is time to think about developing a **new living history program**. Are people reluctant to sign up for Earthquake Day, because they are tired of doing the same event? She has an idea and will try to form a committee to pursue it, recognizing it is a lot of work to develop and obtain approval for a new event.

**The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, April 1 at 1:00 PM.  
All members are encouraged to attend.**



## Upcoming Events:

Board of Director's Mtg.:	Wednesday, April 1
Earthquake Day:	Saturday, April 18
New Members Class:	July / August 2015
Admissions Day:	Wednesday, September 9
Womens' Suffrage Day:	Saturday, October 17

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**To Use the Capitol Museum website, below: Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of "Favorites" or "Bookmark" it.**

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

**Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319**  
**Rachel Martinez**

**Tour Guide Office: 324-0333**

**Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088**

**Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving,**

**Christmas and New Year's Day**

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